

MESSAGE FAIR

The 1978 Natick Mall Message Fair is now history, and once again it was a most successful event. During the seven days from December 4th through the 10th, just over 1000 messages were handled for all over the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries. Although less than our record of over 1200 set last year, this is still a very good total, and plenty high enough to once again earn the club the ARRL's "Brass Pounder's League" award for traffic handling.

During the weekend, Saul Dinman, K1PDX, brought along his Yaesu FT-301 10 watt ssb rig which was operated in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest for demonstration purposes and of course for a little outside fun for the operators at the mall. Despite being kept busy with the traffic, we made a pretty good showing for ourselves by putting W1TKZ in some 300-400 logs in over 30 states and several foreign countries. This despite a balky vertical and only 10 watts input.

The following club members were active operators at the mall. If I have left anyone out, my apologies: WA1TBY, WA1PQY, K1OGF, AC1D, WA1HVS, WB1FGI, N1ADY, WA1YOJ, WB1BUV, WA1YOL, WB1BUQ, K1TK, N1ABS, N1ABZ, K1PDX, WB1FCO, N1ACN, WB1ECJ, WA1ZRH, K1UR. All operators are to be commended for a fine job in handling traffic and in bringing Amateur Radio to the general public.

Finally, of course, no event of this type would be possible without the help of the National Traffic System and especially those who acted as outlet stations taking traffic directly from the mall. To the following stations, a big "Thank You" for your help: WA1TBY, WA1ZRH, WA2SPL, WA9NEW, W1FJI, WB1DXR, K1PAD, K1BA, WA1VEI, and many others. Without these hardworking people, our job would be impossible. □

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

January 4, 1979 at 7:30 pm

January 18, 1979 at 7:30 pm

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

JANUARY 1979

The Spark Gap

BOOK V VOL I

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Well, another year has come and gone and it has been a busy one both for the club and for amateur radio in general. The year started out on a hectic note with the now famous Blizzard of 1978 back in February. Many of our club members were busy in the emergency that followed this the largest storm in recent history. Once again, Amateur Radio proved its worth in an emergency.

Another of our big events of the year was the first ever participation of Amateur Radio in the running of the BAA Boston Marathon. I'm sure that despite some minor problems of the type that are bound to pop up in the first attempt at something, all of the participants from WARS enjoyed themselves. And, of course our help was appreciated enough that we have been asked back for future years.

Of course, no club's year could be complete without Field Day, and for once we had some good weather to make for a pleasant weekend.

In Amateur Radio in general, probably the biggest change was the complete overhaul of the callsign structure by the FCC which has given newcomers and those who upgrade the opportunity to get callsigns unlike anything issued before. During the year 1978 there was also the orbiting of three new amateur satellites, OSCAR 8 AMSAT and RADIO 1 and 2 by the USSR.

These are only a few of the events of 1978. No doubt with 1979 the year of WARC it will be equally busy. □

profiles

By George Young. WAIYAU

This month, profiles take a look at C.J. and Dennis McDonald, as well as Erik Thoresen. C.J. was born and raised in Needham having graduated from the high school there. For the next twenty seven years, he served in the communications branch of the U.S. Marine Corps and rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He is presently retired and living in Newton at the home of his brother Dennis. C.J.'s interest in ham radio sparked at the beginning of 1977. He holds the call of WB1BUM, with a technician license, and spends his operating time on two meters F.M.

As C.J. puts it, he was a professional communicator for twenty-seven years and has since joined other hams in a most rewarding profession. C.J. also sails small boats and hopes to get into deep sea sailing some day in the near future.

Dennis, WB1EBW, also grew up in Needham and attended the high school there. He promptly enlisted in the Marine Corps, were interestingly enough, he was sworn in by C.J., and served for three years. Afterwards, he obtained an Associate's degree at Newton Junior College and is now self-employed as a flooring installer. The bug bit him while working at sea. So, in 1977 he obtained his novice license (though not going on the air as of yet). He has recently built an HW-8, so this may change.

As this article goes into print, Dennis expects to be wed, so congratulations and best wishes. □

Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, was born in Framingham in 1945. His father had been a radio operator in the Norwegian Merchant Marine prior to World War II. By telling Erik about his experiences in the Merchant Marine, he had developed enough interest in ham radio to obtain his license. In 1961 while at the Natick High School, he became a novice and passed the technician test a year later.

After graduating from high school, enlisted in the Navy and served

as a machinest mate specializing in steam propulsion. Since that time, he has worked as a truck driver, and, two years ago, he attended Sylvania Technical School and is now working for a company which builds and designs tuning devices for radios and televisions.

Erik used to operate on six meters but nowadays you will find him on the 70 cm band. Besides ham radio, his other hobbies are hiking and mountain climbing, which gave him a good excuse to go to New Hampshire and Vermont for this and last year's VHF QSO Parties. □

Executive Minutes

The executive meeting was held on November 4, 1978 from 8 pm to 10 pm. Most of the meeting was devoted to the final arrangements for next months Natick Mall message fair. Other items of business concerned dues, in which a motion was passed instructing the treasurer to select people whom he feels will renew, to ask for dues. Printing and advertising costs of the Spark Gap were next on the agenda. The President suggested that the club should buy an offset press and print only what we need. Concerning the revising of the Emergency Communications support plan, it was decided to have Dick Pierce look into it. Finally, a motion was passed to buy a QRP rig. □

hr REPORT

A major threat to antennas was revealed at an FAA Public Hearing on Dec. 5th. It was proposed that anyone increasing the height of any structure anywhere near any airport would have to file a form with the FAA and with the FCC. This proposal is a tightening of the restrictions already in Part 97.45 of the FCC's Amateur rules, but could cause trouble since it would require knowledge of location and height above sea level of the applicant's station as well as nearby airports.

hr Report, December 8, 1978

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: NELS J. ANDERSON, K1UR
32 WESTGATE ROAD, APT. 6
CHESTNUT HILL, MASS. 02167

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$5. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - JUNE 30. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



WARC Notes

Despite the doomsayers, Amateur Radio fared quite well in the FCC's WARC 79 proposals, details of which are just becoming available. On the good side is the gain of three new HF bands at 10.1-10.2, 18.068-18.168, and 25.11-25.21MHz as exclusive Amateur worldwide. In addition, 50kHz would be added to the low end of 15 meters, and 40 meters would be shifted down by 50kHz to make all of it exclusively Amateur worldwide. The 80 meter band would remain the same except 3.5-3.9 would become exclusively Amateur in Region 2 (the Americas) instead of being shared.

On the negative side is the loss of the low 60kHz of 160 meters, making 1860-1900kHz exclusively Amateur, and 1900-2000kHz shared as at the present. In the 23cm band, the low 25MHz would be lost leaving 1240-1300MHz portion is. The big loser is 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ meters, in which the whole present Amateur allocation of 220-225MHz would be given

to the Maritime Mobile service. This last minute grab of 220 is the only real surprise as up until a few weeks ago 220 had seemed secure.

This proposal will probably go with the WARC delegates to Geneva with few changes. Though it is only a proposal of course, its importance is not to be overlooked as our government is one of the key nations of the 150 or so that will be participating. All in all, the report is very encouraging as there is no major loss in the HF bands, and in fact there are gains in bands allowing Amateurs on frequencies that have not been available at least since the 20s.

hr Report, December 15, 1978

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Nr 734 Dated November 30, 1978

FCC has announced Phase Two of the Amateur station callsign assignment system which will begin January 1, 1979. Phase One will remain in effect until that date. Phase Two modifies the policies set forth in the earlier action by specifying that callsign change requests must reflect a change to the callsign group reserved for the license class held by the applicant. Advanced class licensees may select a Group B callsign when they renew 60 days before normal expiration and after January 1, 1979. Also, Amateurs may request changes at time of application for upgrading by marking item 13A on form 610. The Northern Mariana Islands has now come under FCC jurisdiction and has been assigned the digit 0. KH0 calls will appear subsequent to implementation of Phase Two. Full details will appear in January QST. AR.

Nr 730 Dated October 26, 1978

The Governments of the United States and Surinam consummated an Amateur Radio reciprocal operating agreement with an exchange of diplomatic notes on October 12, 1978. The agreement is effective that date, so Amateurs of either country desiring to operate in the other can do so upon application to proper authorities. Details available for a stamped self-addressed envelope to ARRL headquarters, Newington CT 06111. AR.

"Timeout!"

By Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

There has recently been quite a splash made by the so called narrow band voice modulation (NBVM) concept. A cryptic cover story and two more detailed technical articles appeared in three separate issues of QST (Dec. 1977, Nov. 1978, Dec. 1978). The fundamental advantage claimed for the technique is that it provides a means of reducing the bandwidth required for intelligible single sideband voice transmissions from 2400 hz to 1600 hz. The reduction permits the use of narrower i.f. or audio filters in the receiver with accompanying reduction of voice and adjacent channel splatter.

The technique has been patented and is being promoted by its inventors, the VBC Corporation of Santa Monica, California. They have a strong assist from the ARRL, who has rated the technical advancement with the advent of single sideband voice (as opposed to AM). This is probably an overstatement. However, the League undoubtedly sees Amateur involvement in development and acceptance of the new technique as a technical contribution by hams to be pointed to at this important period in the history of Amateur Radio (WARC?).

It is difficult to fully evaluate the NBVM system without having tried it in one's own station, but I have tried to digest the concept to get a feel for its potential and limits.

The normal communications quality bandwidth for voice is 2400 hz. That means that speech energy between 0 hz and 2400 hz must be received to provide intelligible results. The inventors of NBVM noted that there is a selective "hole" in this band where the frequency components do not carry much necessary information (600-1600hz). This region they filter out. Next they take the remaining speech components above 1600 hz and slide them down into the gap (there is also frequency inversion in doing this). The now redundant voice energy above 1600 hz is now chopped off with a narrow filter.

All this happens before the audio enters the transmitter. This processed 1600 hz wide audio goes into the microphone jack and is transmitted by single sideband. At the receiver end, the process is reversed between the receiver and the speaker.

The general concept of reducing bandwidth is obviously a good one. Unfortunately, most Amateur receivers do not have a 1600 hz filter to take advantage of the narrower incoming signal. Nor is the sharpness of the skirts (filter shape factors) sufficiently good for most available amateur filters. To remedy this, audio filters are provided in VBC's "black box". This approach tends to throw away some of the advantages of the NBVM since out of band signals (those between 1600 and 2400 hz) will still be detected by the receiver and cause pumping of the automatic gain control. Any users of presently available audio filters are familiar with the effect. The question of reproduction quality of the audio is still open. It appears that the 1600 hz bandwidth may be just slightly too narrow. As a hedge, VBC includes a 2100 hz and a 2500 hz filter in their "black box". The implication of their article is that most users would prefer the wider bandwidths to the 1600 hz filter. Unfortunately, there is little difference between the wide audio filters and presently common SSB 2400 hz i.f. filters (with the exception of slightly poorer i.f. shape factors in some rigs).

Another element in the "receiver black box" is a so called "amplitude compander". This appears to be nothing more than a low noise threshold type amplifier which would appear to add little to system performance.

Looking into my crystal ball, it is hard to say if NBVM will catch on. It might offer relatively little advantage to the average ham. Also, stations using standard SSB can not easily communicate with those using NBVM. This was not true during the transition from AM to SSB in the 1960's. The systems were compatible and the advantages more clearly demonstrable. □

Low Down QRP

by Pete Bradley, N1ADX

There will always be some hams looking for new frontiers away from the crowded bands. They look to exotic modes or higher and higher frequencies. They bounce their signals off meteors or listen to the stars. If you do this kind of thing you are an experimenter at heart. Without people like you there would be no amateur radio as we know it today. The experimenter is faced with high costs also. Fortunately, there is an alternative, which will cost you very little, but can still give you the thrill of exploring little known frequencies. Ever heard of the 1750 meter band?

Although many people don't know it, there is one country in the world which allows unlicensed communications on several frequencies. That country is the United States of America. However, part 15 of the FCC regulations imposes power and other restrictions. The best deal is in the 1750M band where the following rules apply:

Operation between 160 and 190 kHz is permitted if the power input to the final stage of the transmitter (exclusive of filament) is not greater than one watt, all emissions outside of the band are suppressed at least 20 db below the unmodulated carrier, and the antenna length does not exceed 50 feet (excluding loading coils and ground radials). In plain terms, that means unrestricted short range communications by any mode and you use any call letters you want (but you must not use your amateur callsign).

If you don't have your novice license yet you can use the band for code practice--unless it becomes a ham band at WARC - 79. Here in New England the band is most active during the winter months on Saturday mornings. Distances of 100 miles or more are possible. It is very easy to build a transmitter for use at such low frequencies (see Ken Cornell's book) and receivers or converters are readily available. Your home-brew transmitter should bear the

following declaration: I have constructed this device for my own use. I have tested it and certify that it complies with the applicable regula-

tions of FCC Rules Part 15. A copy of my measurements is in my possession and is available for inspection. (Add your signature and the date.)

Propagation conditions vary little at low frequencies and the background noise is least during the winter. Dimmers may cause unpleasant noises. Therefore the addition of a CW filter is very useful when copying code. You will also hear some unmodulated carriers on the band generated by the power company operations (see QST, March 1978, p. 36). However, there is still plenty of room for new LOW-fers (LOW Frequency Experimental Radio Stations). So dig into the spares box for an old pentode and relive the early days of ham radio. But please take care of an increased shock hazard which is associated with low frequency transmitters.

I hope to hear you on the band this winter, and if you should hear me signing 'ADX', please give me a call or mail a reception report.

Most of my information comes from the 1750M column in recent issues of the LOWDOWN, the monthly publication of the Longwave Club of America (Box 33188, Granada Hills, Calif. 91344). For further information see Ken Cornell's book, The Low and Medium Frequency Scrapbook, available from the Ham Radio Bookstore, Greenville, N.H. for \$6.95. □

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE

Drake TR-33C 2 meter rig with all accessories. Crystals for 52,94,15,82, 64,36,79,67,70,85,61,865. Drake 1525EM touch tone micoder. Drake AA-10 amplifier. Larsen 5/8 wave mag mount mobile antenna. Sears 5/8 wave mag mount mobile antenna. \$375 or best offer for all. Call Ted Gruber, WB1ECE, 881-3786.

HT32A 80-10 meter transmitter; 145 watts PEP ssb, 75 cw, 25 AM; with PTT, Dow Key relay, cables. \$100. Call Paul WA1GXN, 534-4523.

Heath HW16 cw transceiver and HG10B VFO, mint condition with manuals. Asking \$150--negotiable. Call John Chapman, WA1WER, 785-1396. □

'YL' Rumblings

ET TU', SANTA

T'was the night before Christmas and
all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not
even a mouse.

The stockings and sneakers were
all over the floor,
Kicked there by the kids as they
went out the door.

The children, now, were all snug
in their beds
While visions of Mopeds raced
through their heads.
And I in my bathrobe, curlers and
cold cream
Of new skis and boots; maybe a
membership to the pool,
Or a shiny new Camaro - now
wouldn't that be cool?

Friend husband was snuggled down
deep in his chair,
His mobile beside him - still on
the air.
I smiled as I looked at him - what
a sight to see -
With his "bibles" on his lap -
QST and 73.

When out in the street was heard
a great din,
I jumped out of the chair - darn
near cracking my shin.
Away to the window I flew like a
flash -
What could have caused that
horrible crash?

The moon on the breast of the
newly-plowed street
Made a path full of diamonds for
cold, home-trod feet.
Then what to these tired old eyes
should come runnin'
But a little old man (I thought
he was funnin')
In a miniature sleigh, with
reindeers so quick,
I knew in a moment it must be
Saint Nick.

He stood up in his sleigh and he
gave out a call

"To the top of the porch! To the
top of the wall!"
So up to the housetop the coursers
they flew
With a sleigh full of whatever,
and the funny guy too.

And then on the roof (I heard it
like thunder)
The prancing of footsteps of this
300 pound wonder.
As I drew in my head and was
turning around
Down the chimney St. Nicholas
came with a bound.

He was chubby and plump - a right
jolly old elf -
And I laughed when I saw him
'cause he looked like myself.
He was dressed all in fur, from
his head to his feet,
And he unzipped his parka (I
thought from the heat).
But what was he wearing beneath -
can you guess?
A bright yellow T-shirt, initialed
WARS.

He undid the buckle and threw
off his pack
And before I knew it was flat
on his back.
"Gosh, I'm tired - I'll just rest
a minute -
Oh look at this book - I wonder
what's in it".

His eyes how they twinkled! His
dimples how merry!
Did he get excited? Oh yes!
Very. Very.
He whipped out a paper, and a
pencil to boot
Started writing like crazy and
gave a loud hoot.

Now let's see - there's that fellow
from South of the Border -
This Drake is a beauty - and just
made to order.....
Aha! A memory accu-keyer - I'm
glad I found 'er
For that guy in Brighton they
call the "Brass Pounder."

Now for the Colonel - doesn't
bother with code, what a pity,

I'll solve all his needs and give
him a "Ritty".
And I guess everything and anything
will very well suit
that guy from Wellesley who's known
as "Prosciutt".
All these things and many, many
more,
I've got to hurry back and get
from the store.

Had I heard right? Were my ears
deceiving?
Was this more ham talk that they
were receiving?
With my hands on my head and green
eyes flashing
I called him a name and gave a
tongue-lashing,
(Enough to put up with friend
husband alone -
But now did I have to suffer
his clone?)

"Enough. Stop. Cease and
desist!
I've had enough of your crummy
old list.
For weeks I've heard nothing but
rigs, 'tennas and chatter,
It's time to put an end to this
'hammy' matter".

Old Nick noticed the way I was
spewing.
Said he, "This babe is not just
C-Qing."
And pulling an antenna from out
of his nose
With a few bolts of lightening,
up the chimney he rose.

He ran cross the roof - fell into
his sleigh
And yelled to the reindeer, "Up,
up and away".
But I heard him exclaim, as in the
sky he rode
This is WXMAS - and he signed off
in code!

Warmest Holiday Greetings to All,

WE/ARY□

Hereabouts...

At the January 4th meeting, we will
have as our speakers Dave Smith K1BSO,
and Joe Kuchta, head of engineering at
MIT and a former ham, giving a talk on
CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation).
As part of their talk, a film and dem-
onstration will be included. Should
be an interesting and informative talk
and you never know when you might need
this kind of information. □

hr REPORT

ARRL will challenge the FCC's lin-
ear amplifier ban in a formal court
suit, the League's executive committee
agreed. Point of Sale Control is also
in the wind, according to two articles
in the November Communications Retail-
ing. In the articles, one discussing
the linear amplifier ban and the other
10 GHz radar jammers being marketed
(at \$589) as an "Amateur Radio Radar
Communicator", John Reed of the FCC is
reported as saying that a new Commis-
sion proposal to require an Amateur
license to purchase an Amateur trans-
mitter is imminent.

hr Report, November 24, 1978□

No harmful nonthermal effects were
found to result from low-level micro-
wave radiation by researchers report-
ing their results to the recent Sym-
posium on Electromagnetic Fields in
Biological Systems in Ottawa, Canada.
More than a third of the 60 papers
presented were on the effects of mic-
rowave radiation on various physiolog-
ical systems, and not one of them re-
ported finding any adverse effects
other than heating from low-level rad-
iation.

hr Report, November 3, 1978□

There were 353,362 U.S. Amateur lic-
enses in force at the end of September
up from 324,148 a year before. Extras
increased from 17,712 to 21,792, Ad-
vanced from 75,979 to 82,454, General
from 111,686 to 117,805, Technician
from 64,068 to 68,281, and Novice from
55,703 to 62,930 during the same per-
iod.

hr Report, November 10, 1978□



THE RUSSIAN SATELLITES

On October 26, 1978 the long awaited Russian Amateur satellites were put into orbit. Radio 1 and Radio 2 as they have been designated were orbited with COSMOS 1045, and have been in operation ever since. With OSCAR 8 having been orbited within the past year as well as OSCAR 7 there are now four satellites available for Amateur use.

The two satellites operate what is known as Mode A on the previous OSCAR satellites, that is, two meters up and ten meters down. The specific frequencies are 145.88-145.92MHz uplink, and 29.36-29.40MHz downlink. The input to the satellites is much more sensitive than on the OSCAR's as it is designed for use by the Russian equivalent of our Technician class licensee, which is limited to 5 watts. Only 3 watts erp are needed for the satellites and the Russians claim successful contacts with only 100mw erp. Anything over about 8 watts erp will cause the transponder to shut itself off to conserve its batteries, and it can only be turned back on by the ground station in the USSR. The satellites orbit at a height of 1050 miles, higher than any previous Amateur satellites, with a period slightly over 120 minutes, an inclination of 83 degrees and an orbit to orbit increment of just over 30 degrees.

The telemetry signal runs 70 mw and is easily audible with only the simplest equipment. Its frequency is 29.400MHz and it runs continuously. The data it sends consists normally of either 7 or 15 groups consisting of a letter, 2 digits, and a letter. When the groups end with the letter "W" the transponder has been turned on, but it may still have been turned off by overloading. This can be found out by the letters used to separate the telemetry groups. If "RS" is sent, the transponder is off, while "RS RS" indicates it is on.

The design of the two satellites is similar to the OSCAR series, using solar cells and rechargeable batteries for power. RS-1 is in an open, unsealed case, while RS-2 is hermetically sealed.

The satellites are meant for educa-

tional and scientific use and are available for general use only on Saturday and Sunday, plus Wednesday for educational uses. As with most operating activities, there are awards available for working through the RS satellites. The Russians are offering a medal to the first ten stations on each continent to make a contact through the satellites, and any station making ten contacts is eligible for a certificate with both awards available via the satellite control station, RS3A via Box 88, Moscow. □

How's DX

The DX bands have really been hopping lately with old Sol delivering some very fine conditions. Early in December the solar flux hit 230, the highest its been since the last sunspot cycle. Fine conditions should continue throughout the winter for bands right up through 10. During the ARRL 10 Meter contest in mid-December most of the world was workable over the weekend, with the top stations making upwards of 2500 contacts, indicating the condition of that band.

South Sandwich operation by LU3ZY are being questioned due to information appearing on the QSLs which are starting to come through.

The Desecheo operation by WØDX and KV4KV was illegal due to a lack of permission to land on the island. Also the island's status as a DXCC country is being challenged, so submission of cards should be held off.

The Navassa operation by NØTG/KP1 has wound up with about 22,000 QSOs.

In the future there is the possibility of a Spratly Island DXpedition by a ZL/VK group (remember the talk on the previous DXpedition there at the club a couple of years ago?). □

Hearabouts....

Station Manager's Report:

The club station, W1TKZ, will be available on any evening to club members. The station will be open by pre-arrangement only. If you would like to operate W1TKZ, please call Dick Paret at 762-5074 at least 24 hours in advance. □

CLEARING THE AIR

Lately I have been rather disturbed by some of the operating practices I have heard on some of the local repeaters. It would seem that many of the operators on repeaters forget that they are on the air and not on the phone. As a result, many seem to forget to identify themselves properly according to FCC rules. Generally, what is heard is a failure to identify properly when answering another station, but I have heard at least one case where a station completed a short QSO without identifying himself even once. Obviously illegal!

The FCC Rule which covers station identification for Amateur Radio stations reads as follows:
97.87 Station Identification.

(a) An Amateur station shall be identified by the transmission of its callsign at the beginning and end of each transmission or exchange of transmissions and at intervals not to exceed 10 minutes during any single transmission or exchange of transmissions of more than 10 minutes duration. Additionally, at the end of an exchange of telegraphy (other than teleprinter) or telephony transmissions between amateur stations, the call sign (or the generally accepted network identifier) shall be given for the station, or for at least one of the group of stations, with which communication was established.

In simple language, this means you must identify yourself when you begin a QSO with another station or group of stations. You must identify yourself at least every ten minutes during any QSO, though not after every transmission. Finally, you must identify yourself and one other station you are in QSO with, or yourself and the name of the net you are in, when you complete a QSO. That's the rules, guys, and even though a repeater often feels the same as operating on the telephone it is still Amateur Radio, and your operations reflect on Amateur Radio as a whole as well as your own individual license.

Along the same lines, please be sure to leave a pause between transmissions. Not too long ago I needed

help in an emergency and it took me three tries to break a QSO. When I finally did get in and report the problem, the station responding had not even managed to pick up my callsign, much less anything else. By this time the police had already shown up, so I did not bother to continue my efforts. We hear a lot about the public service of Amateur Radio and the value that repeaters can be, but I wonder how many opportunities we miss because of the operating practices on this mode.□

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members into the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society: Wing Choy, KA1BHZ; Scott Rehbein, WB1GZE; and John Keady, Sr. Welcome aboard fellows and hope to see you active in the many club events.

Also, congratulations to the following members on upgrading: Pete Bradley, N1ADX ex-WB1GDE, to general; and Frank Callahan, WB1CKU also up to general. Finally, we would like to wish Ted Levin, WB1CFC the best of luck at the new QTH in Sunrise, Fla.□

John Sullivan, W1HHR, was re-elected New England Division Director over W1FD by 2408 to 1426.

hr Report, November 24, 1978□

Like some of the new rigs coming out lately? Apparently a lot of other hams do too. The new Drake TR-7 is now reported to be backlogged 10 months.

hr Report, November 17, 1978□

Well that's about it for another month. I appreciate all the comments I've received on my first edition, and would like to hear from anyone else with ideas or comments on the Spark Gap. Other than that, hope to see you all at the upcoming events and meetings. Happy holidays!

Nels J. Anderson

Nels Anderson, K1UR

